

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7186

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

USUN NEW YORK 186

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE RANGOON 2093

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR BM

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: NEW BURMESE LAW BEING DRAFTED

REF: RANGOON A-94, ITEM 5 (NOTAL)

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFFS, U KYAW, CHIEF, UN DIVISION, MFA, NOTED THAT GUB INTERAGENCY GROUP WAS HARD AT WORK ON NEW NARCOTICS LAW WHICH WOULD INCREASE PENALTIES FOR HEROIN TRAFFICKERS. HE SAID PROBLEM WAS COMPLICATED BY EXISTENCE OF INSURGENT-INFESTED AREAS IN WHICH GUB'S CONTROL WAS LIMITED. HE ALSO NOTED THAT US EXPERIENCE IN ANTI-NARCOTICS LEGISLATION SHOWED THAT THERE WERE VARIOUS WAYS OF ATTACKING THE MATTER, AND IMPLIED THAT THUS FAR THERE WAS NO UNANIMITY IN GUB COUNSELS AS TO BEST WAY TO REVISE EXISTING LAWS.

2. U KYAW ALSO INDICATED THAT IT WOULD BE SOME TIME BEFORE NEW LAW WAS DRAFTED IN FINAL FORM, APPROVED AND PROMULGATED. HE SAID THAT GUB'S LEGISLATIVE SPECIALISTS WERE HEAVILY ENGAGED IN WORK RELATING TO REFERENDUM, ELECTIONS AND NELC STATE CONSTITUTION. HE HAD IN FACT JUST COME FROM ONE MEETING AT HOME MINISTRY ON
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ANOTHER NARCOTICS MATTER (SEPTTEL) AND HAD LEARNED THAT A SEPARATE

MEETING ON THE NARCOTICS LAW WAS IN PROGRESS.

3. COMMENT: GUB IS PRESENTLY WITHOUT ANY LEGISLATIVE BODY (LAST ONE WAS DISSOLVED IN 1962), SO EXECUTIVE BRANCH CAN MOVE RAPIDLY ONCE LAW HAS BEEN HAMMERED OUT. SINCE NEW LEGISLATURE IS DUE TO COME INTO EXISTENCE WHEN NEW STATE CONSTITUTION PROMULGATED IN MARCH 1974, SOME ELEMENTS IN GUB MAY WISH TO DEFER PROMULGATION OF IMPORTANT NARCOTICS LAW UNTIL NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CAN CONSIDER IT. ON BALANCE, EMBASSY INCLINED BELIEVE THAT INROADS OF HEROIN MENACE IN BURMA ARE SUCH THAT GUB WILL WISH GET LAW ON BOOKS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

MARTIN

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Message Attributes

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